

surface". In the last amendment, the claims were amended to remove the word "interface" and instead clearly define what was meant by the term "interface" in the claim by redrafting the claim as follows: "wherein the rigid part of the sole includes an *interfacing surface* which *interfaces* with a binding of an alpine ski or in-line roller skate". To further clarify what is meant by the term "interface", applicant has now amended the specification to replace the term "withstanding" with the word - resisting—and the term "interface" with -interlock-. The term "interlock" more clearly describes Applicant's invention as illustrated in each and every figure of Applicant's disclosure, for example, elements 11, 12, 13, 14, etc. "Interlock" means to interface in a manner that rigidly holds the boot in the binding when the binding is closed. Such can be accomplished in any number of ways, only a few of which are shown in the application. Applicant believes that he has fully responded to the Examiner's point on this issue. If he has not, Applicant requests that the Examiner notify him of such deficiency as soon as possible.

The Examiner has asked that consistent terminology be used throughout the claims. Applicant has amended the claims to refer to one "rigid part", thus making the claims consistent.

The Examiner further requests that claims 3 and 5 be amended to provide antecedent basis. Applicant apologizes for misunderstanding the Examiner. Rarely is the Undersigned cited for lacking antecedent basis when using terms like "heel" and "sole", or the "rear portion" where it is generally understood what is referred to when dealing with a boot, for which there is generally only be one such feature. Applicant thanks the Examiner for his insistence on precision here and kindly asks the Examiner for some guidance on this point. The claim has now been amended to provide antecedent basis.

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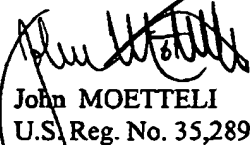
Conclusion

Applicant respectfully submits that the claims, as amended, are now in condition for allowance. No new matter has been entered by this amendment. Any limitations to the claims are made solely for the purpose of expediting the prosecution of the application and, unless otherwise expressly stated, are not made to narrow, vis-à-vis the prior art, the scope of protection which any subsequently issuing patent might afford. Again, if the Examiner has further questions, he is invited to contact the undersigned at phone 011-4122-346-8744, fax at 011-4122-346-8960 (Geneva is 6 hours ahead of Eastern Std Time), or e-mail at moetteli@bugnion.ch.

Applicant petitions the Commissioner for an Extension of Time under 37 CFR §1.136 for a period of ONE month and the Undersigned authorizes the Commissioner to charge any fee or credit any overpayment of any fee under 37 CFR §1.16 and §1.17 which may be required in this application to the deposit account of BUGNION S.A., no. 50-0800.

Respectfully submitted,
BUGNION S.A.

Date : July 9, 2001


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Enclosure: clean copy of amended claims